

ILLINOIS DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMISSION



2010 Annual Report
Fiscal Year
July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

1630 South Sixth Street, Springfield, IL 62703

<http://www.idhhc.illinois.gov>

V: 877-455-3323 * 217-557-4495

VP: 217-303-8010 * TTY: 888-261-2698

Commissioners

Nancy Abbott, Albion
Tina Childress, Urbana
Joseph Culpepper, Bloomington
Emma Danielson, Springfield
Victoria Gustafson, Oswego
Tamara Hogue, Jacksonville
Hershel Jackson, Rock Island
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Janet Lambert, Assistant Director
Patty Greene, Personnel Manager
Tonia Bogener, Legal Counsel
Brandie Belford, Executive Secretary
Mary Friel, Program Coordinator
Brandy Hayes, Project Coordinator



Message from the Director . . .

I am proud to present to you the 2010 Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission Annual Report. IDHHC works diligently towards achieving its Value Statement to assure equality, respect, accessibility and independence for all individuals with a hearing loss.

IDHHC was delighted to adopt the first Illinois Sign Language Certification Exam called the IL Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI). This will provide new interpreters the opportunity to gain certification for licensure and licensed interpreters a way to increase their proficiency levels.

IDHHC staff approaches 2011 with enthusiasm and commitment to continuing its outreach and consumer advocacy efforts. Keep current with IDHHC activities by watching IDHHC Commission Meetings broadcasted live via the internet on its website. The meetings are fully accessible with both captioning and sign language interpreters.

On behalf of Illinois' one million deaf and hard of hearing citizens, I thank you for your strong support of IDHHC. I encourage you to visit IDHHC's new website at <http://www.idhhc.illinois.gov>.

Sincerely,

John Miller
Director



Established in 1997, IDHHC is an executive state agency that advocates on behalf of the interests of people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

- 13th Annual STATEWIDE DEAF FINGER-SPELLING BEE was held at the Abraham Lincoln Library and was the final time it would be hosted by IDHHC. Students were able to tour the museum prior to the event learning about historic events in Illinois. The Finger-Spelling Bee allows for deaf and hard of hearing students to compete amongst their peers, similar to hearing spelling bees.
- IDHHC prepared to give its website a much needed “face-lift.” It will be more stream lined and user friendly. Future additions include an expanded resource section.

EVALUATION & MONITORING OF OUTSIDE PROGRAMS

IDHHC continued its partnership with IL Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) ensuring communication access is available during declared disasters.

- On-going involvement on training modules for First Responders.
- Presented at the 2010 IEMA Conference as part of an agency panel on “Emergency Response and Those Who Need Additional Support-What First Responders Really Need to Know!”

TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

New Training Workshop: How to Ensure Communication Access in a Medical Setting was given to consumers educating them how to request auxiliary aides and services and how to file a complaint when medical providers refused to provide effective communication. Additionally, a new brochure summarizing the legal obligations of medical providers was developed to allow consumers to self-advocate. The brochure is available in two (2) different versions; one focuses on the use of a licensed sign language interpreter and the second focuses on auxiliary aid for non-ASL users.

IDHHC continues its long standing partnership with the Illinois Attorney General’s Office in contributing to the training of Elderly Service Officers throughout the State.



FY 11 Initiatives

- Formation of a Communication Access Real-time Transcription (CART) Taskforce to investigate the need for regulation and standards within the profession.
- Development of Video Brochures & Outreach in American Sign Language (ASL) for direct communication to deaf and hard of hearing consumers.
- Implementation of the IL Board for Evaluation of Interpreters testing and certification program.
- Development of an Emergency Preparedness DVD in ASL in partnership with IL Emergency Management Agency.
- Review of the Educational Interpreter Rules in partnership with the IL State Board of Education.

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS FOR THE DEAF

The Interpreter for the Deaf Licensure Act of 2007 requires interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing to be licensed to provide interpreting services unless specifically exempt. During the first two (2) years of licensure, IDHHC has seen an increase in the number of professional interpreters available to Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals around the state of Illinois.

Interpreters are actively pursuing professional development and working toward upgrading their licensure levels and thus allowing themselves to be more marketable as professionals.

Licensed Interpreters

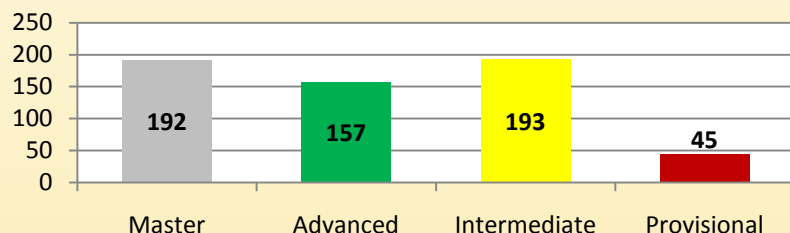
| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Registered* | 515 |
| 2009 | 654 |
| 2010 | 667 |

*Active with IDHHC prior to Licensure requirements

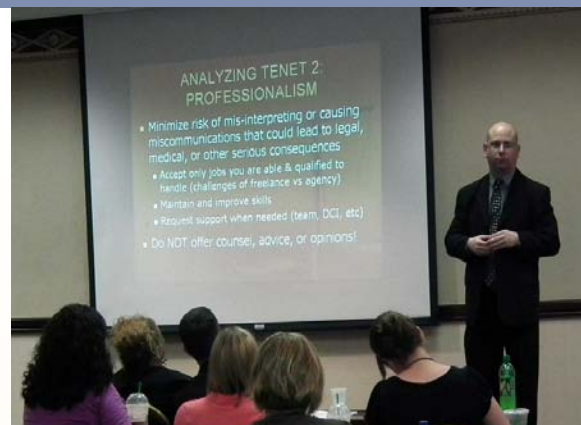
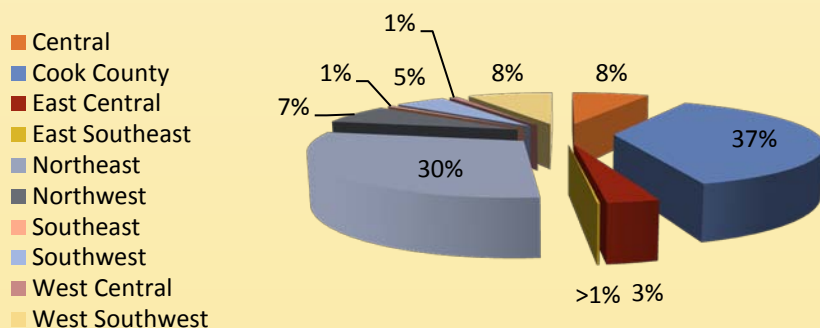
| | New Licensees | Renewals | Proficiency Level Upgrade |
|------|---------------|----------|---------------------------|
| 2009 | 139* | 515 | 43 |
| 2010 | 73 | 556 | 34 |

*Were not Registered w/ IDHHC prior to Licensure requirements

Licensed Interpreter by Proficiency Level



Licensed Interpreters by Geographic Region



Illinois Board of Interpreters

Somone Bowman
Hazel Crest

Becki Combs
Alton

Dana Craig
Chenoa

Shelley Engstrom-Kestel
Manhattan

Teri Hedding
Lombard

Karen Janssen
Lombard

Paul Menkis
Marion

Area Interpreter Training Programs

Columbia College, Chicago
Illinois Central College, East Peoria
John A. Logan College, Carterville
MacMurray College, Jacksonville
Quincy University, Quincy
Southwestern Illinois College, Belleville
St. Louis Community College,
St. Louis, Missouri
Waubonsee Community College,
Aurora
William Rainey Harper College,
Palatine